determine, *with reference to the general revenues*, what contributions should be made towards the maintenance in a sanitary condition of the towns. Allotments like that must obviously vary from year to year. Taking the Trivandrum town, I quite recognise that, in a town like that, which is the seat of His Highness the Maha Raja and is the headquarters of several departments, there would always be the necessity to contribute substantially from the general exchequer to keep the local Committee going. The existence however of a statutory obligation in a matter like this is unprecedented. It is against all principles of finance that there should be a law compelling the Executive Government to spend fixed sums every year on a few favoured localities.

I may add that, as regards the privilege of election being granted to the people, Government would have no serious objection, should the people of any town ask for it, to give them a substantial share in the management of their concerns, by allowing them to return a certain number of members to the local Committee.

The Council having affirmed the principle of the Bill, Mr. Vieyra proposed that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Messrs Subramonia Iyer, Sri Narayanan Thampi, Sankara Menon and the Mover, to report within one month.

The motion was put and agreed to.

THE TREASURE TROVE BILL.

Mr. Sankara Menon.—I beg to propose that the Report of the Select Committee on the Treasure Trove Bill be taken up for consideration.

Seconded by Mr. Vieyra.

The motion was put and agreed to.

Mr. Ananda Row.—I beg to propose that the word "private" be inserted between "of" and "individuals" in line 2 of the title of the Bill. The amendment is only verbal.

Seconded by Mr. Sankara Menon.

Carried.

Mr. Ananda Row.—In the preamble, I propose that, for the words "the protection of Treasure Trove" in lines 2 to 4, the following be substituted:—"declaring the rights of Government and of private individuals with respect to hidden treasure and for prescribing the rules to be observed on the discovery of such treasure".

The amendment is intended to make the wording tally with that adopted for the title of the Bill.

Seconded by Mr. Kuruvila.

Carried.

Section 1.

Mr. Sankara Menon.—I beg to propose that the word "No." be inserted after "Regulation" in line 3.

Seconded by Mr. Subramonia Iyer.

Carried.

Section 3.

Mr. Ananda Row.—I beg to propose the following amendments in this Section:—

(1) In lines 2 to 4, for the words "exceeding in amount or value", substitute the words "the materials of which exceed in value";

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(2) In lines 4 and 5, for the words "as soon as practicable," substitute "within thirty days of such finding";

(3) In line 10, insert the word "and" after "found";

(4) In line 12, insert the words "he shall" between "and" and "either".

Reading Section 15, I find that the value is sought to be fixed on the "materials of the treasure". It is desirable to make the wording precise and uniform and the intended meaning clear. Hence my first amendment.

As regards the second amendment, I think that the expression "as soon as practicable" is vague, and, as such, is likely to cause difficulty in practical working. It is better to fix a limit of time and I would suggest 30 days as a reasonable period.

The other amendments are only verbal.

Seconded by Mr. Sankara Menon.

Carried.

President.—Before proceeding to the next Section, I would invite your attention to the limit of ten rupees fixed by the Section. In all cases in which the value of the treasure exceeds ten rupees, the finder would be bound under the Section to give notice to the Peishkar and it becomes a matter for the Peishkar to enquire into. May not this limit be with advantage raised to, say, fifty rupees? It is, I think, desirable to reduce the interference of Government as between private people as much as possible.

Mr. Vieyra then proposed that "fifty" be substituted for "ten" in line 3 of the Section.

Seconded by Mr. Sankara Menon.

Carried.

Section 8.

Mr. Sankara Menon.—I beg to propose that the word "Government" be substituted for "Dewan" in line 18 of this Section.

Seconded by Mr. Padmanabha Iyer.

Carried.

Section 11.

Mr. Ananda Row.—I beg to propose that, in line 10 of the first Proviso to this Section, the words "in market value" be inserted between "equivalent" and "of".

The proviso gives the discretion to fix the equivalent of the treasure and to divide it between the parties, entirely to the Peishkar, whether or not the parties agree to such distribution. In the case of certain rare coins, for instance, their value, if the coins be sold in the market, may be very high, though the intrinsic value may be but nominal. According to the language of the proviso, there is nothing to prevent the Peishkar from valuing a treasure at its intrinsic worth. This is likely to cause hardship. I think that, in all such cases, the equivalent of the treasure should be calculated according to its market value.

Seconded by Mr. Kuruvila.

Carried.

Mr. Sankara Menon.—I beg to propose that the Bill, as now amended, be published in the Gazette and read again on a future day of which notice shall be given.

The motion was put and agreed to.

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